

REMARKS

The Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated September 27, 2007, has been received and carefully considered. Entry of the amendments to claims 1, 14, 21, and 23 without prejudice is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is also respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH THE EXAMINER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the telephone interviews conducted with the Examiner for application 10/778,436 on October 24, 26, and 29. Agreement was reached with respect to the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection and the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claim 26 in that application. Based on the agreements reached with respect to application 10/778,436, Applicants respectfully submit similar amendments to claims 1, 14, 21, and 23. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the amendments may be found in the specification and figures at least at paragraphs [0066]-[0070] and Figure 2 and accompanying text.

Claims 2-13 and 26-27 depend from independent claim 1, claims 15-20 and 28 depend from independent claim 14, claim 22 depends from independent claim 21, and claims 24-25 and 29

depend from independent claim 23. Applicants respectfully assert that the dependent claims 2-13 and 26-27 are allowable at least because they depend from claim 1, dependent claims 15-20 and 28 are allowable at least because they depend from claim 14, claim 22 is allowable at least because it depends from claims 21, and claims 24-25 and 29 are allowable at least because they depend from claim 23. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 11, 12, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be removed, as claims 11 and 12 depend from allowable independent claim 1 and claims 16-20 depend from allowable independent claim 14, and therefore are allowable for at least that reason. Allowance and removal of the rejections of claims 1-29 is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

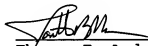
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 29, 2007